



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akihiro YAMADA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2141

Application No.: 09/649,516

Examiner: L. LUU

Filed: August 29, 2000

Docket No.: 107170

For: PRINTING SYSTEM INCLUDING A PRINTER AND CLIENT DEVICES
CONNECTED BY A NETWORK

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In reply to the January 26, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 8-13, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: February 26, 2004

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